

RELI 403: Senior Thesis

SEMESTER: Spring 2020

FACULTY INFO: Claire Fanger

Office hours: by appointment

cfanger@rice.edu

ADA Statement

Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me early in the process of the dissertation (i.e. during construction of the prospectus if not before). All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities will need to also contact Disability Support Services in the Ley Student Center.

Rice Honor Code

While students are expected to cooperate with each other and share their knowledge rather than hoard information and resources, the final work each student completes is expected to be his or her own. Also, paraphrases and quotations must be properly referenced and properly embedded in relation to the original thought of the student to avoid plagiarism.

Course Description

The primary purpose of this course is to enable students who have undertaken senior honors theses under my supervision to finish them in an effective and timely fashion. This is achieved by regular meetings with me to discuss the ongoing project and the written work achieved so far. Since the course is thus exclusively aimed at senior undergraduates students doing theses with me in premodern topics, the subject matter is necessarily guided by the specific needs of these students. I do recommend reading, but specific texts and books vary term by term as the students and their needs change.

Evaluation

This is determined by the progress student has made researching, writing, and revising chapters of the dissertation. In order to get an A in the course, the student must continually produce some amount of writing between meetings, or, in later stages, show evidence of revisions of writing accomplished previously. Until we arrive quite close to the dissertation submission date, the writing does not need to be polished or wholly finished though it does have to show evidence of new progress in thought and research. Extremely small amounts of writing or extremely careless writing showing little new thought or research will earn a lower grade. Essentially, the mark for Reli 800 term by term measures real progress toward the dissertation.